



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: September 11, 2011

Number: 27

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

Extremely saturated fields have delayed corn harvest in many areas of Virginia. The heavy rains from Hurricane Irene followed by an extended stay from Tropical Depression Lee, left between 5 to 6 inches of rain in many areas of the state and over 15 inches in a few localities. Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.7. Some soybean fields were showing the effects from the excessive moisture. There were a few corn earworms found in soybeans. Corn for silage continued to be chopped and tobacco harvest continued to look good. Vegetable harvest is close to the end with a lot of quality issues reported in the tomato crop.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 14, 2011	18	35	45	2
August 21, 2011	17	31	50	2
August 28, 2011	19	28	45	8
September 4, 2011	8	24	63	5
September 11, 2011	1	13	67	19

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 14, 2011	18	42	40	0
August 21, 2011	18	36	45	1
August 28, 2011	22	32	45	1
September 4, 2011	10	27	59	4
September 11, 2011	8	14	66	12

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

Virginia Cooperative Extension

A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia Tech



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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	9	9	30	45	7
Livestock	3	5	23	55	14
Hay, Other	9	8	32	47	4
Hay, Alfalfa	3	7	25	55	10
Corn	4	16	29	43	8
Soybeans	1	2	20	63	14
Tobacco, Flue-cured	0	20	60	19	1
Tobacco, Burley	0	3	14	80	3
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	0	10	64	26	0
Peanuts	0	0	46	43	11
Cotton	0	13	64	23	0
Apples, All	0	0	68	29	3
Peaches	0	7	26	62	5
Grapes	0	0	4	95	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	96	94	100	99
Corn Dent	84	81	86	90
Corn Mature	71	65	65	70
Corn for Grain Harvested	33	17	43	21
Corn Silage Harvested	75	64	83	69
Soybeans Setting Pods	96	90	96	94
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	11	4	16	13
Winter Wheat Seeded	3	NA	4	2
Barley Seeded	7	NA	7	3
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	41	34	49	51
Burley Tobacco Harvested	40	26	39	38
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Harvested	85	84	69	47
Peanuts Pegged	99	93	100	1
Cotton Bolls Opening	40	35	36	54
Fall Apples Harvested	20	17	29	26
Peaches Harvested	93	91	94	97

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sept. 10	Mar. 1 to Sept. 10 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	80	61	89	58	71	1	3493	3202	2.10	2.36	1.18	26.01	-4.95
Norfolk	88	72	93	67	80	5	4092	3532	0.03	0.03	-1.47	31.54	-2.01
Richmond	84	69	89	65	76	3	3927	3459	6.06	6.06	4.78	35.84	4.41
Roanoke	78	61	89	60	70	-1	3657	NA	4.42	6.14	4.87	31.23	0.62
Wash/Dulles	78	64	88	61	71	0	3507	NA	6.70	6.88	5.58	32.08	2.65

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

County received showers last week. Still in dry condition. Temperatures are cooling down some. Still in need of rainfall. Farmers are feeding livestock.

WESTERN

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Weekly precipitation = 4.42". Residue from Hurricane Lee brought much-needed rain. Temperatures were seasonal.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

After Hurricane Irene, Tropical Depression Lee stayed around leaving an average of 3.0 more inches of rain over a 3 day period. No flooding, but the ground is pretty saturated for now. Corn harvest is expected to resume as soon as moisture is down and the ground has dried some. Soybeans are holding good for now.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Farmers are waiting for fields to dry out to resume harvest and planting operations. Damage from storms was not too bad.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

After hurricane Irene - Tropical Depression Lee stayed for a few days to leave between 5 to 6 inches of rain. Chesterfield is saturated with water now. Harvest of corn was expected to begin, but will be on hold for a few more days until the ground dries. The corn has lost some expected yield potential, but should make an average yield for the county. The soybeans are still fairing well.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rainfall from Tuesday through Thursday washed out roads and dams on some irrigation ponds. There is growing concern about what effects the excessive moisture will have on corn and soybeans. Some soybean fields are showing the effects of excessive moisture and corn quality is going down as some farmers are reporting sprouting. More corn is also lodging and some soybean fields have also lodged significantly. We need a dry fall so growers can harvest what can still be good corn and soybean crops.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Rain and showers kept much harvest from happening this week. There was about 5 inches-plus that fell across the region this week. This on top of Hurricane Irene has added a total of 15 inches in some places. Corn harvest will pick up again next week. The stalks are becoming weaker each day and another strong wind event will flatten a lot of it. Soybeans have responded well from the moisture. There is some late season disease coming into beans and will give them a bronzing/reddening of the leaves. Yields should not be adversely affected, but may cause some decrease in seed quality. Vegetable harvest is about over. Some tomatoes will be decent, but a lot of quality issues abound. Pastures and hayfields love the weather.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Tropical Storm Lee brought heavy rains that delayed field work most of the week, particularly corn silage harvest. Cooler nights, warm days and ample moisture has grasslands on the rebound as fall calves start to come.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Moderate rainfall and cooler temperatures have helped pasture conditions considerably. Corn silage is being chopped, with most fields being right on schedule. Tobacco harvest is looking good also. Strawberries should be going in the field within the next few weeks.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Crops are still showing damage from Hurricane Irene. Some soybeans are showing signs of a light recovery. Tobacco is continuing to go down in the fields. Corn is being harvested to salvage some of the crop.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Combines went back to corn fields late in the week. Rainfall was highly variable across the county. A few late corn earworms have been found in soybeans.

(Southeastern continued)

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

We received more rain last week with amounts varying from 1 inch to 3+ inches. Fields that were drying were again set back. Corn harvest continues. Expect cotton spraying with defoliant to begin this week or next. Peanuts are doing well but with the rain disease concerns are increasing. We expect there will be losses from Hurricane Irene on corn and cotton but not below the county expected yields.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Growers are still cleaning up and recovering from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Lee gave some areas an additional 6-10 inches of rain on top of Irene's 9-13 inches. Swamps and creeks are finally receding. We may be able to get back in some fields later this week (9-12-2011) to continue corn harvest and start cotton defoliation.



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